

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNWFC, OCON

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

REF: A-STATE 010019, B-ROME 0201

1. IT NOW APPEARS THAT MEXICO WILL CHAIR WORKING GROUP MEETING,
DESPITE EXPECTED ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR ARMENDARIZ. U.S. REPRESENTATIV
E
TO FAO CONVEYED U.S. VIEWS (REF A) TO WALTER ASTIE BURGOS, MEXICAN
ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE. ASTIE RESPONDED THAT MEMBERS OF GROUP 77
WORKING GROUP FOR THIS MEETING, IN THEIR SESSION OF JANUARY 14, SEEME
D
INCLINED TO LET MEXICO PROVIDE ANOTHER CHAIRMAN IN PLACE OF ARMENDARI
Z,
SPECIFICALLY ASTIE.

2. WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT INFORMS US ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS
THAT FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA AND FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BULA HOYOS
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MET WITH THIS GROUP-77 WORKING GROUP JANUARY 14 AND MADE EXTENSIVE

SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE ALONG LINES DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN FAO ROLE WITH RESPECT TO WFC, E.G., GIVING FAO CHARGE OF PREPARING WFC AGENDA. WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN TEXT OF SUGGESTIONS, WHICH ARE TO BE CONSIDERED FURTHER BY GROUP-77 WORKING GROUP AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 15.

3. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SAID TO ASTIE, AS PROSPECTIVE ACTING CHAIRMAN OF GROUP, THAT RUMORS OF POSSIBLE NEW SUGGESTIONS ON RULES OR PROCEDURE WERE DISTURBING, BECAUSE WEO GROUP REPRESENTATIVES COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO RESPOND TO NEW SUGGESTIONS WITHOUT HAVING TIME TO CONSULT THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS FOR WHOM THEY ARE SPEAKING. ASTIE COMMENTED THAT NEW SUGGESTIONS WOULD CONFUSE AND DELAY PROCESS.

4. COMMENT: GROUP 77 WORKING GROUP APPEARS READY TO SPONSOR MAJOR NEW SUGGESTIONS WITHOUT REFERRING THEM TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS, EVEN THOUGH GROUP 77 WAS ORIGINALLY MAIN ADVOCATE OF STRONG WFC. PROPOSALS TO CHANGE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN FAO AND WFC PROBABLY WILL EXTEND BEYOND REASONABLE BOUNDS OF RULES OF PROCEDURE, AND PERHAPS IMPINGE UPON UNGA RESOLUTION. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW WFC WORKING GROUP ON RULES OF PROCEDURE CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESOLVE PROBLEM IN ITS ONE-WEEK SESSION BEGINNING JANUARY 19: IF GROUP 77 PERSISTS IN SPONSORING THESE SUGGESTIONS, IT MAY MEAN THAT WFC WORKING GROUP WILL HAVE TO MAKE COMPLETELY NEW BEGINNING.VOLPE

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